

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action mailed on January 31, 2008. This response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The drawings stand objected under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for only showing one intermediate terminus. The Examiner feels that since the claims recite at least one intermediate terminus, the drawings should show more than one intermediate terminus. Accordingly, Fig. 8 has been amended to show another intermediate terminus in broken lines.

Claims 7, 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Guzzinati (US 5339659).

Claims 9 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Guzzinati in view of Sandrock (US 4282769).

Independent claim 7 has been amended to state that the “arm is arranged for moving in said channel from said inner terminus to said at least one intermediate terminus and to said outer terminus.” This feature is not shown in Guzzinati or Sandrock.

The rejection of claim 7 states that Guzzinati has at least one “intermediate terminus” 14 situated between inner and outer terminuses, which are identified as the

curved ends of aperture 15. The rejection relies on col. 2, lines 14-34 of Guzzinati, which state:

“The rotation of the key imparts a corresponding rotation to a plate 12 bearing a pair of pins 13 which subsequently engage a toothed edge 14 of an aperture 15 in the plate 2 so as to move the plate 2 between its two stop positions.

The plate 12 is shaped like a disc with a flat edge 16 which, when the key 10 is in its starting position, is in contact with an end edge 17 of a further plate 18. The plate 18 is slidable in the case 1, in the same direction as the bolt plate 2, and is subject to the action of a spring 19 which constantly urges the plate against the disc 12. The sliding of the plate 18 is guided by pins 20 which are fixed to the back of the box 1 and engaged in corresponding slots 21 in the plate 18.

When the pump mechanism 8 is operated by the key 10, the rotation of the disc 12 thus retracts the plate 18 against the action of the spring 19, and the plate 18 returns to its original position when the flat edge 16 of the disc 12 comes into contact with the end edge 17 of the plate 18 once more.”

The rejection applies Guzzinati as having an intermediate terminus 14 situated between inner and outer terminuses, which are the curved ends of aperture 15. However, this is not the case. In Guzzinati, as quoted above, the pins 13 jutting from plate 12 fit into the slots 14 of aperture 15. It is clear from the quoted text and examination of Figs. 1 and 2 that counterclockwise rotation of plate 12 by the key 10 causes the left pin 13 to move out of the left slot 14 and the right pin 13 to push leftwards against the right slot 14 to throw bolts 13 outwards from the lock case. Conversely, clockwise rotation of plate 12 by the key 10 causes the right pin 13 to move out of the right slot 14 and the left pin 13 to push rightwards against the left slot 14 to retract bolts 13 into the lock case.

Please note the pins 13 do not travel from one “terminus” to another. The left pin 13 only moves in out and of the left slot 14, and the right pin 13 only moves in out and of the right slot 14. The pins 13 never move to the curved ends of aperture 15. Thus, the curved ends of aperture 15 do not qualify as terminuses for the travel of the pin 13 and arm (i.e., bolt plate 2). Accordingly, in contrast to the claimed invention, Guzzinati does not have a channel with an inner terminus, at least one intermediate terminus and an outer terminus; rather Guzzinati has only two terminuses, the two slots 14.

It follows from the above explanation that combining Guzzinati with Sandrock does not arrive at the claimed structure of claim 9. As stated before, Guzzinati does not have an arm that travels between an inner terminus to at least one intermediate terminus, and from the at least one intermediate terminus to an outer terminus. Therefore combining Guzzinati with Sandrock does not and cannot provide the claimed structure of “a blocking element attached to said linkage device, said blocking element comprising a first position in which said blocking element permits said arm to travel between said inner terminus and said at least one intermediate terminus, and blocks travel of said arm beyond said at least one intermediate terminus to said outer terminus.”

All claims are in good condition for allowance. If any small matter remains outstanding, the Examiner is requested to telephone applicants' attorney. Prompt reconsideration and allowance of this application is requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, in the fee(s) filed, or asserted to be filed, or which should have been filed herewith (or with any paper hereafter filed in this application by this firm) to our Account No. 14-1140.

Respectfully submitted,

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